

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

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SUBJ: PRESS REACTION PRESIDENT'S PARIS TRIP

REF: STATE 70190

1. POMPIDOU MEMORIAL CEREMONIES REPORTED PROMINENTLY ALL TODAY'S PAPERS. PRESIDENT NIXON'S PRESENCE IN PARIS HIGHLIGHTED IN FRONT AND INSIDE PAGE STORIES. REPORTS NOTE PRESIDENT'S PLANNED MEETINGS WITH BRANDT, WILSON AND PODGORNÝ, AS WELL AS WITH FRENCH LEADERS. MOST PAPERS REFER TO WHITE HOUSE STATEMENT THAT MEETINGS WOULD NOT DEAL WITH SUBSTANTIVE MATTERS. CONSERVATIVE /IL TEMPO/ AND PROCOMMUNIST /PAESE SERA/ QUESTION "APPROPRIATENESS" OF THE MEETINGS' TIMING; OTHERS GENERALLY IN LINE WITH /IL GIORNO/ WHICH CALLED SUCH CONVERSATIONS "INEVITABLE". QUOTATIONS FOLLOW:

2. /IL GIORNO/ HEADLINES: "PRESENCE OF NIXON MEANS A WISH TO REOPEN DIALOGUE WITH FRANCE."

3. /IL MESSAGGERO/, IN FRON PAGE STORY, REPORTS: "WHITE HOUSE ANNOUNCED THAT MEETINGS WILL NOT BE 'ON SUBSTANCE', BUT EVERYTHING POINTS TO WHAT NIXON WILL TRY TO ACCOMPLISH THROUGH HIS CONVERSATIONS. PRESIDENT WILL PUT FORWARD PLAN TO CONVINCE EEC COUNTRIES TO DRASTICALLY REDUCE THIR
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IMPORTS OF ARAB OIL." AN INSIDE PAGE REPORT FROM CORRESPONDENT

LUCIO MANISCO IN PARIS ELABORATES. MANISCO ARGUES THAT EUROPEANS WERE DISTURBED BY UNDERSECRETARY DONALDSON'S URTING THAT THEY REDUCE THEIR ARAB OIL IMPORTS BY AS MUCH AS 15 0/0 IN ORDER BREAK PETROLEUM CARTEL AND SAYS THIS WOULD MEAN "DISMANTLING" OF EUROPEAN INDUSTRIES.

4. PRO-COMMUNIST /PAESE SERA/ CARRIES IRONIC FRONTPAGE HEADLINE: "GREAT SUMMIT WITHOUT POLITICS AT NOTRE DAME." FOLLOWING STORY IS, HOWEVER, LOW-KEYED AS IT POINTS OUT THAT MEETINGS WILL TAKE PLACE "EVEN IF THE OCCASION IS NOT MOST APPROPRIATE."

5. /CORRIERE DELLA SERA/ NOTES ON INSIDE PAGE THAT SOME HAVE "UNKINDLY ATTRIBUTED (PRESIDENT'S TRIP) TO HIS DESIRE TO SHOW AMERICAN CITIZENS THAT HE STILL ABLE SHOW HIMSELF ABROAD WITH HEAD HELD HIGH".

6. CONSERVATIVE /IL TEMPO/ HEADLINES INSIDE PAGE STORY: "AN 'INFORMAL' SUMMIT ON THE OCCASION OF THE FUNERALS. ONLY 'NON SUBSTANTIVE' THEMES IN NIXON'S TALKS. ANNOYANCE IN PARIS POLITICAL CIRCLES ABOUT THE CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN AMERICAN PRESIDENT AND EUROPEAN HEADS OF STATE." STORY NOTES: "THAT THE AMERICAN PRESIDENT PROFITS FROM JUST THIS SAD OCCASION TO DO WHAT A LIVING POMPIDOU WOULD NOT DO (I.E. HOLD SUMMIT WITH EUROPEANS HEADS) IS COMMENTED ON WITH BITTERNESS." VOLPE

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